

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A disposable garment comprising:
at least one front panel comprising a fastening component;
at least one back panel comprising a mating fastening component;
at least one frangible bond connecting the front panel and the back panel,
the fastening component and the mating fastening component being in the unfastened condition.
2. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1, further comprising at least one first opening and at least one second opening.
3. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 2 wherein the frangible bond extends substantially from the first opening to the second opening.
4. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 2 wherein the frangible bond extends a partial distance from the first opening to the second opening.
5. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the frangible bond has a width in a range from about 1 mm to about 25 mm.

6. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the frangible bond has a width in a range from about 2 mm to about 10 mm.

7. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the frangible bond has a width in a range from about 3 mm to about 6 mm.

8. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein a strength of the frangible bond is in a range from about 10 grams to about 2700 grams.

9. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein a strength of the frangible bond is less than about 2700 g.

10. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein a strength of the frangible bond is in a range from about 200 grams to about 2000 grams.

11. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein a strength of the frangible bond is less than about 2000 g.

12. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein a strength of the frangible bond is in a range from about 500 grams to about 1000 grams.

13. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein a strength of the frangible bond is less than about 1000 g.

14. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the frangible bond is located on a tab which extends from one of the front panel and the back panel.

15. (Original) A disposable refastenable garment comprising:
a front side panel comprising a fastening component;
a back side panel comprising a mating fastening component;
a frangible bond connecting the front side panel and the back side panel,
the fastening component and the mating fastening component being in the unfastened condition;
wherein the fastening component and the mating fastening component are engageable only upon breaking the frangible bond.

16. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 15 wherein a strength of the frangible bond is less than about 2700 grams.

17. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 15 wherein a strength of the frangible bond is less than about 2000 grams.

18. (Original) The disposable garment of Claim 15 wherein a strength of the frangible bond is in a range from about 500 grams to about 1000 grams.

19. (Original) A disposable garment, comprising:

a chassis including a first front side panel and a second front side panel, a first back side panel and a second back side panel, and defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings;

each front side panel having an inner surface and an outer surface and defining a distal edge;

each back side panel having an inner surface and an outer surface and defining a distal edge;

a first frangible bond connecting the first front side panel and the first back side panel;

a second frangible bond connecting the second front side panel and the second back side panel;

wherein each of the front side panels comprises a fastening component bonded to one of the inner and the outer surfaces adjacent the distal edge of the front side panel, and each of the back side panels comprises a mating fastening component bonded to one of the inner and the outer surfaces adjacent the distal edge of the back side panel, the fastening component and the mating fastening component being in the unfastened condition; and

wherein each of the front side panels defines a distance between the fastening component and the distal edge, and each of the back side panels defines a distance between the mating fastening component and the distal edge.

20. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein the first frangible bond extends substantially from the waist opening to the first leg opening, and the second frangible bond extends substantially from the waist opening to the second leg opening.

21. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein the first frangible bond extends a partial distance from the waist opening to the first leg opening, and the second frangible bond extends a partial distance from the waist opening to the second leg opening.

22. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein the distance between each of the fastening components and the distal edge of one of the front side panels is in a range from about 1 mm to about 25 mm.

23. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein the distance between each of the mating fastening components and the distal edge of one of the back side panels is in a range from about 1 mm to about 25 mm.

24. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein the distance between each of the fastening components and the distal edge of one of the front side panels is in a range from about 2 mm to about 10 mm.

25. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein the distance between each of the mating fastening components and the distal edge of one of the back side panels is in a range from about 2 mm to about 10 mm.

26. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein the distance between each of the fastening components and the distal edge of one of the front side panels is in a range from about 3 mm to about 6 mm.

27. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein the distance between each of the mating fastening components and the distal edge of one of the back side panels is in a range from about 3 mm to about 6 mm.

28. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein each of the first and second frangible bonds have a width in a range from about 1 mm to about 25 mm.

29. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein a strength of each of the frangible bonds is less than about 2700 grams.

30. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein a strength of each of the frangible bonds is less than about 2000 grams.

31. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein a strength of each of the frangible bonds is in a range from about 500 grams to about 1000 grams.

32. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein each of the first and second frangible bonds is located on at least one tab which extends from the distal edge of at least one of the side panels.

33. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein each of the frangible bonds is located between one of the fastening components and the distal edge of one of the front side panels, and between one of the mating fastening components and the distal edge of one of the back side panels.

34. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein each of the frangible bonds is located inward of one of the fastening components and inward of one of the mating fastening components.

35. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 19 wherein each of the frangible bonds is aligned with one of the fastening components and one of the mating fastening components.

36. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment, comprising:

a chassis including a first front side panel and a second front side panel, a first back side panel and a second back side panel, defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings, and each front side panel and each back side panel having an inner surface and an outer surface;

each front side panel defining a distal edge;

each back side panel defining a distal edge;

a first frangible bond connecting the first front side panel and the first back side panel; and

a second frangible bond connecting the second front side panel and the second back side panel;

each front side panel and each back side panel having a nonwoven substrate and at least one of the front side panels and the back side panels defining an attachment surface; and

at least one fastening component bonded to one of the front side panels and the back side panels on one of the inner surface and the outer surface, the at least one fastening component comprising a mechanical fastening element adapted to refastenably engage the attachment surface, the mechanical fastening element and the attachment surface being in the unfastened condition.

37. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein the at least one fastening component is bonded to the inner surface of the chassis.

38. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein the at least one fastening component is bonded to the outer surface of the chassis.

39. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein the attachment surface comprises complementary loop fasteners.

40. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein the attachment surface comprises complementary hook fasteners.

41. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein each of the frangible bonds is located between the at least one fastening component and the distal edge of one of the front side panel and the back side panel.

42. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein each of the frangible bonds is located inward of the at least one fastening component and the distal edge of one of the front side panel and the back side panel.

43. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein each of the frangible bonds is aligned with the at least one fastening component.

44. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein each of the first and second frangible bonds have a width in a range from about 1 mm to about 25 mm.

45. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein each of the first and second frangible bonds have a width in a range from about 2 mm to about 10 mm.

46. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein a strength of each of the frangible bonds is less than about 2700 grams.

47. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein a strength of each of the frangible bonds is less than about 2000 grams.

48. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein a strength of each of the frangible bonds is in a range from about 500 grams to about 1000 grams.

49. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 36 wherein one of each front side panel and each back side panel further comprises a perforation.

50. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 49 wherein each perforation is located inward of each frangible bond.

51. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 49 wherein each perforation is located outward of the each frangible bond.

52. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment, comprising:

a chassis including a first front side panel and a second front side panel, a first back side panel and a second back side panel, defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings, and each front side panel and each back side panel having an inner surface and an outer surface;

each front side panel defining a distal edge;

each back side panel defining a distal edge;

a first frangible bond connecting the first front side panel and the first back side panel; and

a second frangible bond connecting the second front side panel and the second back side panel;

a portion of the chassis having a nonwoven substrate defining an attachment surface; and

at least one fastening component bonded to one of the front side panels and the back side panels on one of the inner surface and the outer surface, the at least one fastening component comprising a mechanical fastening element adapted to refastenably engage the attachment surface, the mechanical fastening element and the attachment surface being in the unfastened condition.

53. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 52 wherein each of the frangible bonds is located between the at least one fastening component and the distal edge of one of the front side panel and the back side panel.

54. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 52 wherein each of the frangible bonds is located inward of the at least one fastening component and the distal edge of one of the front side panel and the back side panel.

55. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 52 wherein each of the frangible bonds is aligned with the at least one fastening component.

56. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 52 wherein a strength of each of the frangible bonds is less than about 2700 grams.

57. (Original) The absorbent garment of Claim 52 wherein a strength of each of the frangible bonds is less than about 2000 grams.

58 (Canceled)

59. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment, comprising:

a chassis including a first front side panel and a second front side panel, a first back side panel and a second back side panel, and each front side panel and each back side panel having an inner surface and an outer surface;

one of the front side panels and the back side panels comprising a nonwoven substrate and defining an attachment surface; and

at least one fastening component bonded to the inner surface of one of the front side panels and the back side panels, the at least one fastening component comprising a mechanical fastening element adapted to refastenably engage the attachment surface;

wherein the at least one fastening component engages the attachment surface, and the inner surface of the first front side panel faces the inner surface of the first back side panel;

~~The absorbent garment of Claim 58~~ wherein the attachment surface is located on the inner surface and the outer surface of one of the front side panels and the back side panels.